Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus configured for:

determining a priority threshold to achieve a desired transmission rate of ~~encoded information~~ for a stream of video or audio ~~data,~~ data comprising a header and a plurality of portions of encoded information, the header including stream priority information comprising a stream priority and each portion of the encoded information including priority information ~~added to the encoded information~~ comprising a priority for the each portion of the encoded information;

transmitting portions of the encoded information when a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the transmitted portions of the encoded information satisfies the priority threshold and not transmitting other portions of the encoded information when a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the other portions of the encoded information does not satisfy the priority threshold to thin the transmitted encoded information; and

when (1) an actual transfer rate of the transmitted portions of the encoded information exceeds a target transfer rate or (2) a decision is made that a writing of the portions of the encoded information into a transmitting buffer is delayed, the decision being based on a result of comparing an elapsed time after start of transmission with a time added to the encoded information, the added time indicating when the portions of the encoded information are to be decoded or output, adjusting the priority threshold to reduce a size of a further portion of the encoded information to be transmitted, thereby further thinning the encoded information that is transmitted.

24.-58. (Cancelled).

59.   (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

successively inputting classified time-series data and encoded priority information for the time-series data, the encoded priority information comprising a priority for each inputted time-series data;

determining a threshold priority for retransmitting a requested portion of the time-series data;

transmitting the classified time-series data and the encoded priority information as a stream that includes a header comprising stream priority information comprising a stream priority;

receiving the stream time-series data and the priority information;

when information in the stream is received time-series data is damaged or lost, requesting retransmission of time-series data corresponding to the damaged or lost information;

retransmitting the requested time-series data when a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the requested time-series data corresponding to the damaged or lost information satisfies the threshold priority and not retransmitting the requested time-series data when a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the requested time-series data corresponding to the damaged or lost information does not satisfy the threshold priority; and

when the transmitted time-series data is damaged or lost at a frequency exceeding a threshold value, adjusting the threshold priority to reduce an amount of the requested time-series data retransmitted.

60.   (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus configured for:

successively receiving classifieda stream of successive encoded time-series data and encoded priority information comprising a priority for each received time-

series data, the stream including a header comprising stream priority information comprising a stream priority;

determining a threshold priority for requesting retransmission of a portion of the received time-series data;

when information in the ~~received time-series data~~stream is damaged or lost, requesting retransmission of time-series data corresponding to the damaged or lost information if a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the requested time-series data corresponding to the damaged or lost information satisfies the threshold priority but not if a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the requested time-series data corresponding to the damaged or lost information does not satisfy the threshold priority; and

when information in the classified time-series data is damaged or lost at a frequency exceeding a threshold value, adjusting the threshold priority to reduce a frequency of retransmission requests issued.

61. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

successively inputting classified time-series data and encoded priority information for the time-series data, the encoded priority information comprising a priority for each inputted time-series data;

determining a threshold priority for transmitting the time-series data to achieve a desired transmission rate;

transmitting, as a stream that includes a header comprising stream priority information comprising a stream priority, each of the classified time-series data ~~comprising~~that comprises a priority that, in combination with the stream priority, satisfies the threshold priority and not transmitting classified time-series data comprising a priority that, in combination with the stream priority, does not satisfy the threshold priority; and

when an actual transmission rate exceeds the desired transmission rate, adjusting the threshold priority to thin out the transmitted ~~time-series data~~stream.

62. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus configured for:

~~successively~~ receiving a stream of successive encoded ~~classified~~ time-series data and encoded priority information comprising a priority for each received time series data;

determining a priority threshold to achieve a desired transmission rate;

transmitting, as a stream that includes a header comprising stream priority information comprising a stream priority, each of the ~~classified~~ encoded time-series data ~~comprising~~ that comprises a priority that, in combination with the stream priority, satisfies the priority threshold and not transmitting ~~classified~~ encoded time-series data comprising a priority that, in combination with the stream priority, does not satisfy the priority threshold; and

adjusting the priority threshold to thin out the transmitted ~~time-series data~~stream to achieve the desired transmission rate when the desired transmission rate has not been achieved.

63.-94. (Cancelled).

95. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising:

determining a priority threshold to achieve a desired transmission rate ~~of encoded information~~ for a stream of video or audio ~~data,~~ data comprising a header and a plurality of portions of encoded information, the header including stream priority information comprising a stream priority and each portion of the encoded information including priority information comprising a priority for the each portion of the encoded information~~added to the encoded information~~;

transmitting portions of the encoded information when a combination of the stream priority and the priority of the transmitted portions of the encoded information satisfies the priority threshold and not transmitting other portions of the

encoded information when <u>a combination of the stream priority and</u> the priority of
the other portions of the encoded information does not satisfy the priority threshold;

when (1) an actual transfer rate of the transmitted portions of the encoded
information exceeds a target transfer rate or (2) a decision is made that a writing of
the portions of encoded information into a transmitting buffer is delayed, the decision
being based on a result of comparing an elapsed time after start of transmission with
a time added to the encoded information, the added time indicating when the
portions of the encoded information is to be decoded or output, adjusting the priority
threshold to reduce a size of a further portion of the encoded information to be
transmitted, thereby further thinning the encoded information that is transmitted.

96.   (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus of claim 23,
wherein when a transmission rate exceeds a threshold value, an increased priority is
given to the encoded information that should be transmitted in order to decrease the
transmission rate.

97.   (Previously Presented) The data processing method of claim 59,
wherein when a loss rate of encoded information or a retransmission frequency
exceeds a threshold value, an increased priority is given to the encoded information
that should be retransmitted in order to decrease the loss rate or the retransmission
frequency.

98.   (Previously Presented) The data processing method of claim 61,
wherein when a transmission rate exceeds a threshold value, an increased priority is
given to the encoded information that should be transmitted in order to decrease the
transmission rate.

99.   (Previously Presented) The data processing apparatus of claim 23,
wherein the encoded information is for I frame, P frame or B frame video data, and

the priority threshold is raised or lowered according to the priority information
added to the encoded information.

100.   (New) The data processing apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least
one of the stream priority and the priority for the each portion of the encoded

information is raised when at least one of a retransmission frequency and a loss rate of information exceeds a predetermined threshold.

101.   (New)   The data processing method of claim 59 further comprising raising at least one of the stream priority and the priority for the each inputted time-series data when at least one of a retransmission frequency and a loss rate of information exceeds a predetermined threshold.

102.   (New)   The data processing apparatus of claim 60, wherein at least one of the stream priority and the priority for the each received time-series data is raised when at least one of a retransmission frequency and a loss rate of information exceeds a predetermined threshold.

103.   (New)   The data processing method of claim 61 further comprising raising at least one of the stream priority and the priority for the each inputted time-series data when at least one of a retransmission frequency and a loss rate of information exceeds a predetermined threshold.

104.   (New)   The data processing apparatus of claim 62, wherein at least one of the stream priority and the priority for the each received time-series data is raised when at least one of a retransmission frequency and a loss rate of information exceeds a predetermined threshold.

105.   (New)   The data processing method of claim 95 further comprising raising at least one of the stream priority and the priority for the each portion of the encoded information when at least one of a retransmission frequency and a loss rate of information exceeds a predetermined threshold.